



*BUDDHA - THE LIGHT
OF ASIA
(COMICS)*

WRITTEN & EDITED
A. MANI MARAN

(THIS PAGE IS LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY - TO MAKE YOUR'S NOTES...)

AROUND THE YEAR

500 B.C

A BABY BOY WAS BORN
IN A SMALL KINGDOM
OF ANCIENT INDIA,
KAPILAVATTHU

NOW THE PLACE IS WELL KNOWN AS THE SOUTHERN
PART OF THE NEPAL, LUMBINI



AS WAS THE CUSTOM IN THOSE DAYS, HIS MOTHER, QUEEN
MAYA, WAS RETURNING TO HER PARENTS' HOME FOR THE
BIRTH OF HER CHILD

IT WAS A LONG JOURNEY
FOR THE QUEEN TO MAKE,
SO, ON THE WAY, THE ROYAL
CARAVAN STOPPED FOR A
REST BY THE EDGE OF A
GREAT FOREST



SHE STARTED TO SING A
SONG AND WALKED INTO
THE TREES

AS THE QUEEN ENTERED THE TREES, SHE FELL
INTO A KIND OF TRANCE AND REMEMBERED A
STRANGE DREAM SHE HAD HAD...



THE DAY SHE CONCEIVED
HER CHILD



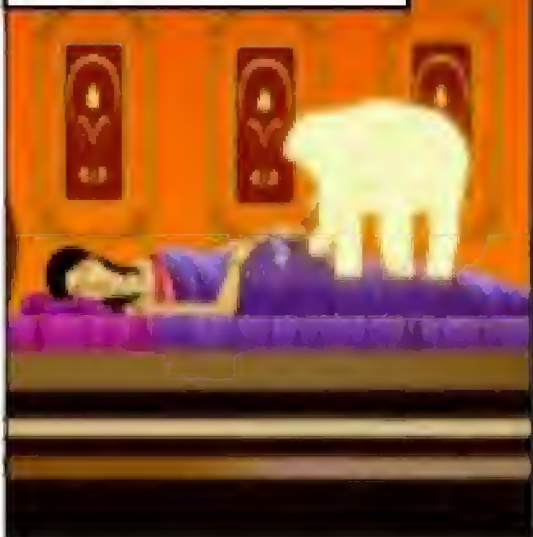
IN THE DREAM - A BABY ELEPHANT HAD APPEARED AT
HER SIDE



AND BLESSED HER WITH ITS TRUNK



THEN VANISHED AT HER
STOMACH



SHE CAME OUT FROM
HER DREAM



QUEEN MAYA WAS DEEP INSIDE THE WOOD WHEN
SUDDENLY HER BIRTH PAINS BEGAN



AND THEN, IT IS SAID, A TREE,
UNDERSTANDING THIS GREAT MOMENT,
BENT SLOWLY DOWN TO PROTECT HER BY
OFFERING ITS BRANCHES FOR HER
SUPPORT



SHE SINGS AND GROANS WITH PAIN



WITH THE CRYING, THE CHILD WAS BORN WITH
ALMOST NO PAIN, WITH SHINING, GOLDEN SKIN

HE WAS FULLY CONSCIOUS,
HIS EYES WIDE OPEN



AND HE WAS STRONG
ENOUGH TO STAND ON
HIS OWN LEGS

HIS FACE GLOWS AS MUCH AS
SUN SHINE



I HAVE BEEN
BORN TO REACH
ENLIGHTENMENT AND FREE
ALL CREATURES FROM
SUFFERING



AND, IT IS SAID, LOTUS BLOSSOMS
GREW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS



KING SUDDHODHANA, THE BABY'S FATHER, NAMED THE CHILD SIDDHARTHA, WHICH MEANS, 'HE WHO BRINGS GOOD'



TRADITIONAL INDIAN MUSIC'S WERE PLAYED DURING THAT JOYFUL OCCASION



AND THEN HE GAVE A GREAT RECEPTION TO PRESENT HIS SON TO THE PEOPLE



SUDDENLY, IN THE MIDST OF THE CEREMONY, AND TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE, AN UNEXPECTED GUEST ARRIVED



HE WAS THE REVERED HERMIT
AND ASTROLOGER ASITA,
WHOM NOBODY HAD SEEN
FOR YEARS



AS ASITA LOOKED AT HER SON, QUEEN MAYA SAW TEARS
COME TO HIS EYES



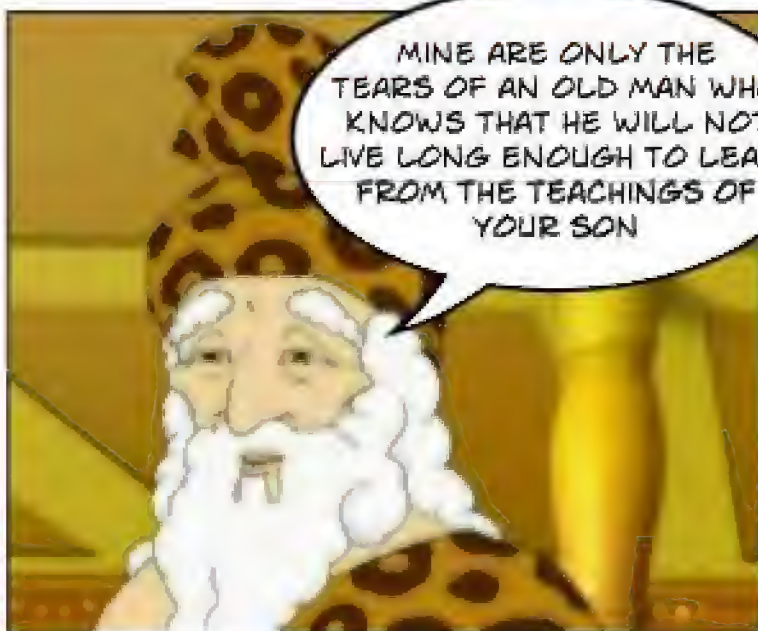
QUEEN MAYA'S FACE WAS FULLY COVERED BY
THE ASTONISHING SORROW



DO NOT BE
ALARMED, O QUEEN



MINE ARE ONLY THE
TEARS OF AN OLD MAN WHO
KNOWS THAT HE WILL NOT
LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO LEARN
FROM THE TEACHINGS OF
YOUR SON



WILL HE BE A
GREAT KING?





HE'LL BE THE
MASTER OF THE
WORLD OR ITS
REDEEMER



WHEN HE GROWS
OLDER, SIDDHARTHA CAN
BECOME A TEACHER, LIKE YOU, IF
HE WANTS, BUT FIRST OF ALL HE
MUST FOLLOW ME AND BE A
KING



IT MAY BE AS YOU
WISH, BUT THE GODS
OFTEN BETRAY THE
WISHES OF MORTAL
MEN



HE WILL BE A
KING...
HE WILL BE A
KING!



CROWD CHEERING WITH
FULL OF HAPPINESS

HE WILL
BE A GREAT
KING!

THE HAPPIEST CEREMONY WAS OVER
HOWEVER...



QUEEN MAYA WAS FILLED
WITH A STRANGE
FOREBODING, AS IF SHE
KNEW THAT SHE TOO WOULD
NOT LIVE TO SEE HER SON'S
DESTINY FULFILLED



A WEEK LATER SHE DIED OF A TERRIBLE ILLNESS...



SHE BECAME A STAR AND WENT TO
THE IN SKY TO TOOK REBIRTH AS
DEVA IN TUSITA HEAVEN



IT WAS REALLY A GRIEF FOR THE KING
SUDDHODHANA



KING SUDDHODHANA THEN ASSIGNED MAHA PAJAPATI, THE PRINCE'S AUNT TO TAKE CARE OF HIM



SUBSEQUENTLY, KING SUDDHODHANA PROMOTES HER TO STATUS OF HIS QUEEN



THE QUEEN MAHA PAJAPATI HAS HER OWN SON AND DAUGHTER



YET SHE LOVES PRINCE SIDDHATHA AS HER REAL SON



DAYS WERE ROLLED



CHILD PRINCE SIDDHATHA BECOMES THE YOUNG PRINCE SIDDHARTHA



HE MARRIED THE BEAUTIFUL
PRINCESS YASODHARA



WITHIN A SHORTEST PERIOD, HE HAS
PROFICIENCY IN ALL EIGHTEEN ARTS
THROUGH THE RENOWNED MASTER
"VISVAMITRA"



HE BECAME A GREAT HORSEMAN, A GREAT ARCHER, AND HE OFTEN PLAYED WITH HIS
FRIENDS THE ANCIENT GAME CALLED "KABADI"



THE KING WAS SURPRISED ABOUT
THE MIRACULOUS ACTIVITIES OF
HIS SON PRINCE SIDDHATHA



AND ALSO REMEMBERED THE WORDS
OF THE SAGE ASTROLOGER ASITA



THE KING HAD GIVEN SIDDHARTHA THREE PALACES - ONE FOR WINTER, ONE FOR THE RAINY SEASON AND ONE FOR SUMMER



AND HE GAVE HIM THREE LOTUS PONDS



ONE WHERE RED LOTUSES BLOOMED



ONE WHERE WHITE LOTUSES BLOOMED



ONE WHERE BLUE LOTUSES BLOOMED

IN THIS WAY HE HOPED TO SHIELD HIS SON FROM ALL KNOWLEDGE OF PAIN AND WORRY



BUT THEN, ONE DAY, SIDDHARTHA HEARD A MYSTERIOUS SONG OF HAUNTING BEAUTY



AT FIRST HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHERE IT WAS COMING FROM



THE SONG WAS IN A LANGUAGE HE HAD NEVER HEARD BEFORE



WHAT
WAS IT SAYING?
WHAT DID IT MEAN?
WHAT IS THIS
SONG?



IT IS FROM A
FAREWAY LAND,
MY LORD



IT EVOKES THE BEAUTIES OF THE COUNTRY SHE KNEW AS A CHILD, THE MOUNTAINS AND THE LAKES THAT SHE CAN NEVER FORGET





HOW STRANGE. DO SUCH PLACES EXIST, PLACES AS BEAUTIFUL AS HERE?



I'VE HEARD THAT ONLY SUFFERING LIES BEYOND THESE WALLS



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SUFFERING"?

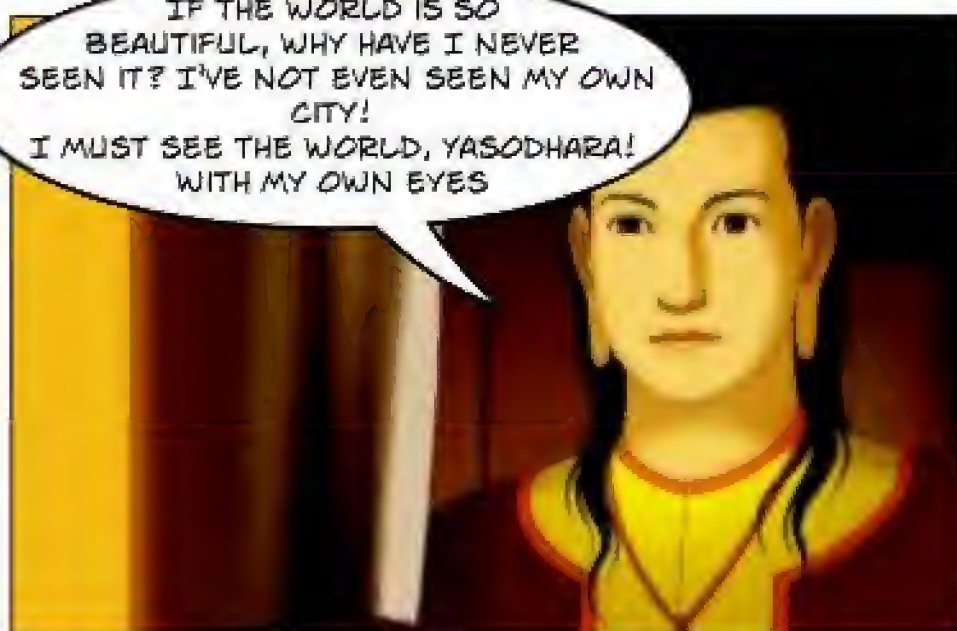
YOUR FATHER LOVES YOU VERY MUCH. HE HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING WE COULD WANT, THERE'S NO NEED TO GO ANYWHERE ELSE WHEN YOU'VE SUCH BEAUTY AROUND YOU



IT IS TRUE; WE HAVE EVERYTHING, AND EVERYTHING IS PERFECT. SO... WHAT IS THIS FEELING I HAVE?



IF THE WORLD IS SO BEAUTIFUL, WHY HAVE I NEVER SEEN IT? I'VE NOT EVEN SEEN MY OWN CITY!
I MUST SEE THE WORLD, YASODHARA!
WITH MY OWN EYES



IN THE MORNING CEREMONIAL DRUMMING
CREATES THE DEAFENING SOUND

SECRETLY, HOWEVER, HIS FATHER
PREPARED EVERYTHING IN ADVANCE SO
THAT NOTHING SIDDHARTHA MIGHT SEE IN
THE CITY WOULD UPSET OR DISTURB HIM

THE CHARIOT ROLLED OUT OFF THE PALACE GATES
- "EVERYONE SHOULD BE YOUNG AND HEALTHY"
WHEN HE WAS 29 YEARS OLD

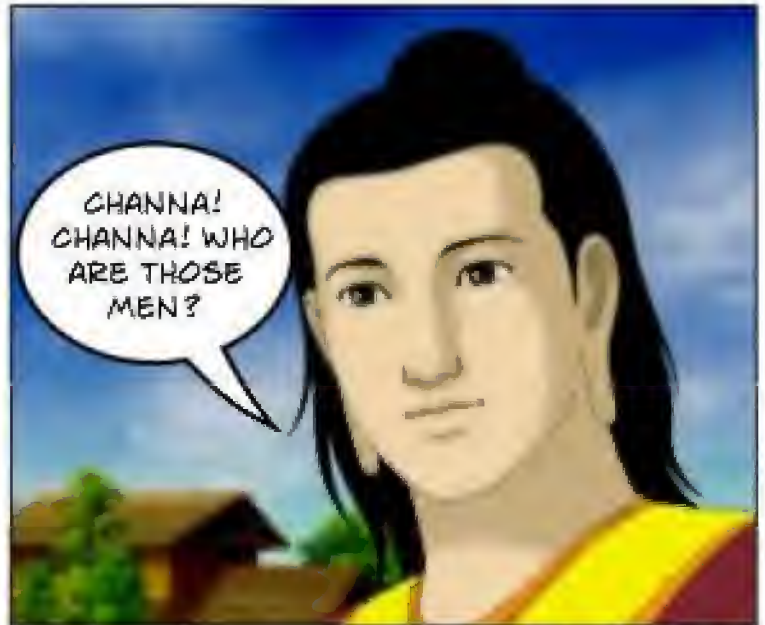
CROWD STARTED CHEER

SIDDHARTHA!
SIDDHARTHA!
SIDDHARTHA!
SIDDHARTHA!

SUDDENLY, HOWEVER, THROUGH THE CROWD, THE YOUNG PRINCE SAW SOMETHING HE HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE



CHANNA!
CHANNA! WHO
ARE THOSE
MEN?



TELL ME,
WHO ARE
THOSE MEN?

THEY ARE
MEN LIKE THE
REST OF US, MY
LORD



WHY DO
THEY LOOK
LIKE THAT?



THEY ARE
OLD, MY LORD





WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
OLD?



OLD AGE
DESTROYS MEMORY,
BEAUTY AND
STRENGTH. IN THE
END, IT HAPPENS TO
US ALL, MY LORD



TO EVERYONE?
TO YOU AND TO ME?



IT IS BETTER NOT TO
CONCERN YOURSELF WITH
THESE THINGS, MY LORD

CHARIOT ROLLED LITTLE
FURTHER WITH THE INSIST
OF CHANNA



CHANNA,
STOP THE CHARIOT.
WHAT IS THE MATTER
WITH THOSE
PEOPLE?





IT WAS ON THIS DAY, FROM THIS FIRE, WITH THESE PEOPLE, THAT SIDDHARTHA LEARNED ABOUT SUFFERING AND DISCOVERED COMPASSION



HE CONSIDER HIMSELF THAT THEY WERE HIM, AND HE WAS THEM



CHARIOT ROLLED BACK TO THE PALACE WITH THE PRINCE SIDDHARTHA



OH, MY FATHER, WHY HAVE YOU HIDDEN THE TRUTH FROM ME FOR SO LONG?

WHY HAVE YOU LIED TO ME ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF SUFFERING, SICKNESS, POVERTY, OLD AGE AND DEATH?

IF I'VE LIED TO YOU, SIDDHARTHA, IT HAS BEEN BECAUSE I LOVE YOU





YOUR
LOVE HAS
BECOME A
PRISON



HOW CAN I
LIVE HERE AS I LIVED
BEFORE WHEN SO MANY
ARE SUFFERING
OUTSIDE?

YOU NEVER
WANTED TO GO
OUTSIDE



FATHER I MUST
FIND AN ANSWER TO
SUFFERING



EVEN IF YOU
BETRAY ME,
SIDDHARTHA, HAVE YOU
NO PITY FOR THE WIFE
YOU LEAVE, AND FOR
YOUR OWN SON?



MY... CHILD IS
BORN?



BORN THIS
VERY EVENING...
THINK OF THEM,
SIDDHARTHA



YOU TOO
ARE A FATHER.
YOU TOO HAVE A
DUTY. YOU
CANNOT LEAVE
NOW



EVEN MY LOVE
FOR YASODHARA...
AND MY SON... I
CANNOT REMOVE THE
PAIN I FEEL



FOR I KNOW THAT
THEY TOO WILL HAVE TO
SUFFER, GROW OLD AND DIE
LIKE YOU, LIKE ME, LIKE
US ALL

YES. WE MUST ALL DIE... AND BE REBORN...
AND DIE AGAIN, AND BE REBORN AND DIE, AND BE
REBORN AND DIE AGAIN. NO MAN CAN EVER ESCAPE
THAT CURSE



THEN THAT IS MY
TASK. I WILL LIFT
THAT CURSE



LOCK THE GATES,
DOUBLE THE GUARD IF THE
PRINCE TRIES TO ESCAPE, HE
MUST BE STOPPED BY
FORCE

AS SOON AS HE LEFT HIS FATHER, SIDDHARTHA WENT TO SEE HIS WIFE AND HIS NEWBORN SON AND HE CALLED HIM RAHULA, FETTER.



HIS HEART WAS TORN, BUT HIS MIND WAS MADE UP



A MAGIC MIST HAD DESCENDED OVER EVERYTHING



THE WHOLE COURT HAD FALLEN INTO A DEEP SLEEP





MARA, THE TEMPTER GOD OF DESIRE
APPEARED



INSIDE YOU ARE
PROVIDED WITH A
LUXURIOUS AND
COMFORT LIFE



WITHIN SEVEN DAYS
YOU RETURN WHERE
YOU STARTED THIS
JOURNEY



I WON'T
RETURN WITHOUT
FINDING HOW TO
GET AWAY FROM THE
CYCLE OF REBIRTH,
OLDNESS,
ILLNESS AND
DEATH

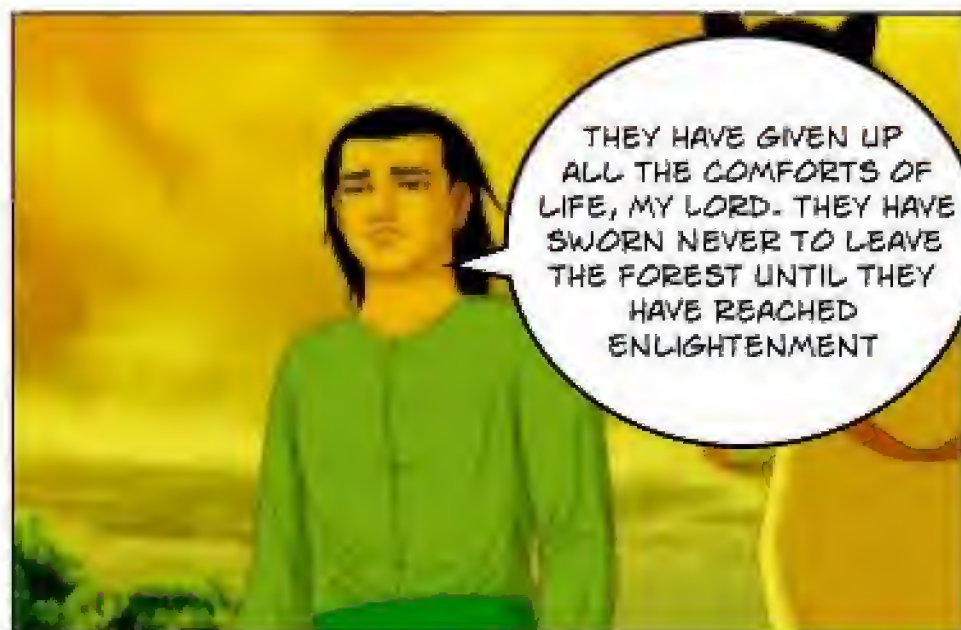
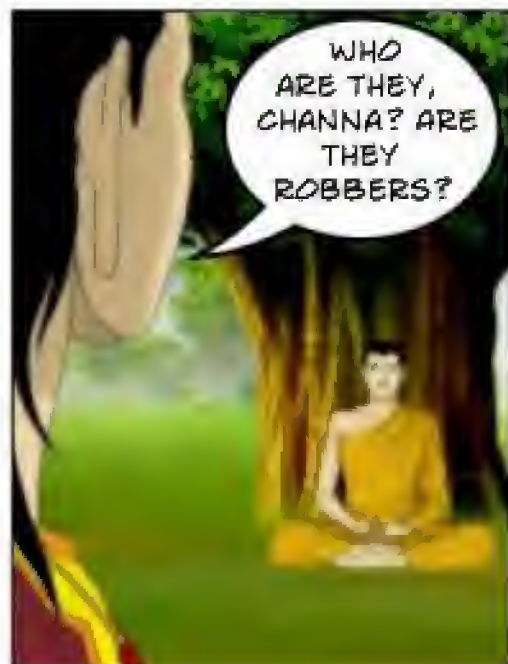


PLEASE DON'T
OBSTRUCT ME



MARA, VANISHED AT THAT INSTANT





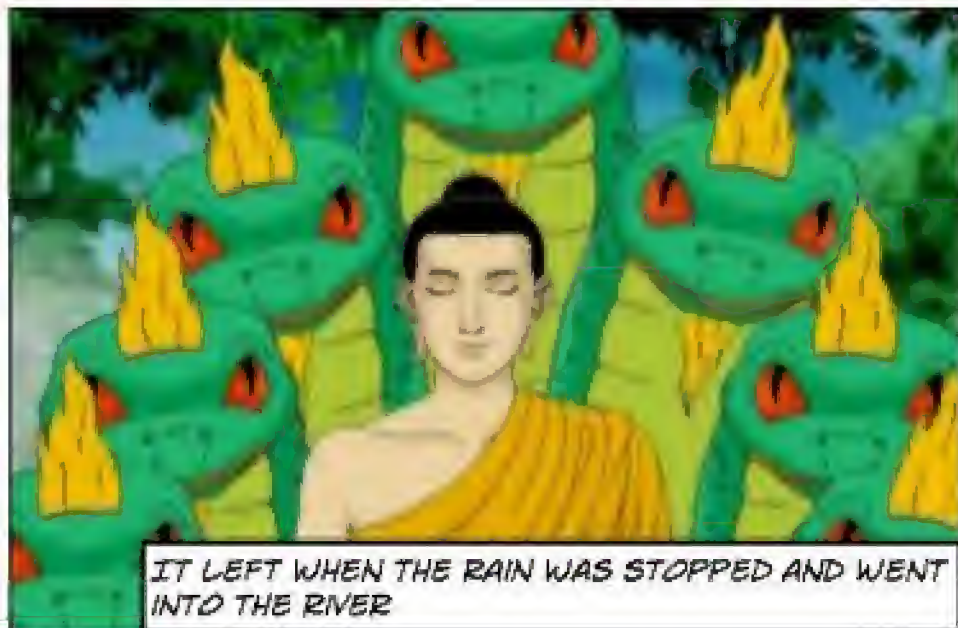
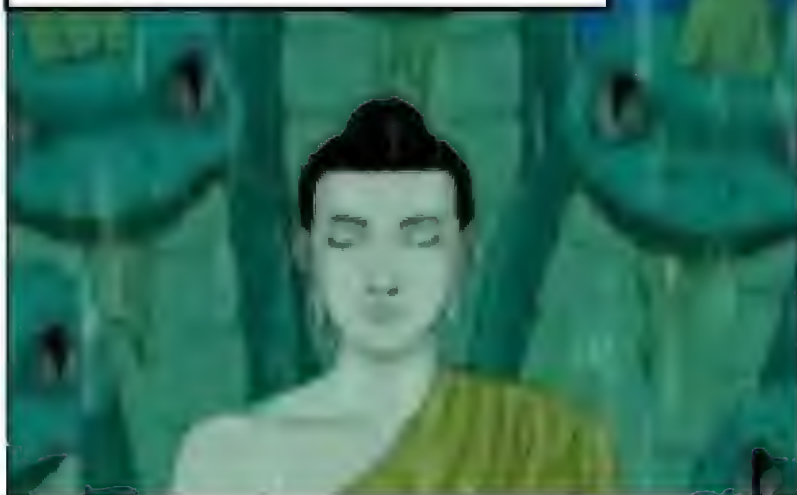


RAINING STARTS FROM THE SKY WITH LOUD THUNDERCLAP



SIDDHARTHA STOOD STILL WITH MOTIONLESS UNDER THE TREE

A FIVE HEAD SNAKE COME AND MADE ITS HEAD AS UMBRELLA TO THE PRINCE SIDDHARTHA



IT LEFT WHEN THE RAIN WAS STOPPED AND WENT INTO THE RIVER

FIVE ASCETICS WERE
WATCHED THIS MIRACLE WITH
THEIR OWN EYES



THE FIVE ASCETICS WITNESSED THESE
MIRACLES AND WERE FILLED WITH
WONDER



THEY BECAME SIDDHARTHA'S FIRST DISCIPLES



FOR SIX YEARS, SIDDHARTHA AND HIS
FOLLOWERS LIVED IN SILENCE AND
NEVER LEFT THE FOREST



FOR DRINK, THEY HAD RAIN... FOR
FOOD, THEY HAD A GRAIN OF RICE OR A
BROTH OF MUD OR THE DROPPINGS OF
A PASSING BIRD



THEY WERE TRYING TO MASTER SUFFERING
BY MAKING THEIR MINDS SO STRONG THEY
WOULD FORGET ABOUT THEIR BODIES

THEN, ONE DAY SIDDHARTHA HEARD AN OLD MUSICIAN FROM A PASSING BOAT SPEAKING TO HIS PUPIL

IF YOU
TIGHTEN THE
STRING TOO
MUCH, IT WILL
SNAP. AND IF YOU
LEAVE IT TOO
SLACK, IT
WON'T PLAY



SUDDENLY, SIDDHARTHA REALIZED THAT THESE SIMPLE WORDS HELD A GREAT TRUTH AND THAT IN ALL THESE YEARS HE HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THE WRONG PATH



IF YOU TIGHTEN THE STRING TOO
MUCH, IT WILL SNAP. AND IF YOU LEAVE
IT TOO SLACK, IT WILL NOT PLAY

THE VILLAGE GIRL OFFERED
SIDDHARTHA HER BOWL OF RICE



AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS,
HE TASTED PROPER FOOD





BUT WHEN THE ASCETICS SAW THEIR MASTER BATHING AND EATING LIKE AN ORDINARY PERSON, THEY FELT BETRAYED, AS IF SIDDHARTHA HAD GIVEN UP THE GREAT SEARCH FOR ENLIGHTENMENT



COME...
AND EAT WITH ME



YOU HAVE BETRAYED YOUR VOWS, SIDDHARTHA. YOU HAVE GIVEN UP THE SEARCH. WE CAN NO LONGER FOLLOW YOU

TO LEARN IS TO CHANGE. THE PATH TO ENLIGHTENMENT IS IN THE MIDDLE WAY

WE CAN NO LONGER LEARN FROM YOU



IT IS THE LINE BETWEEN ALL OPPOSITE EXTREMES

THEY HAVE NO INTENTION TO STAY
THEY LEFT SIDDHARTHA



IF I CAN REACH ENLIGHTENMENT, MAY THIS BOWL FLOAT UPSTREAM

THE BOWL FLOATS IN
THE UPSTREAM



THE MIDDLE WAY WAS THE GREAT TRUTH SIDDHARTHA
HAD FOUND, THE PATH HE WOULD TEACH TO THE WORLD



IT WAS OUTSIDE A LITTLE VILLAGE CALLED BODGAYA

SIDDHARTHA SAT
UNDER A GREAT TREE,
HE HAD FOUND THE
MIDDLE WAY AND
RESTORED HIS BODY
TO HEALTH



SIDDHARTHA REACHED ENLIGHTENMENT UNDER
THE TREE BODHI, FIG TREE - FICUS RELIGIOSA



AND THEN FIVE GIRLS APPEARED.
THEY LOOKED LIKE INNOCENT
VILLAGE GIRLS, BUT IN FACT THEY
WERE THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF MARA,
LORD OF DARKNESS



THEY WERE THE SPIRITS OF PRIDE,
GREED, FEAR, IGNORANCE AND DESIRE



AND MARA HAD SENT THEM TO TEMPT
SIDDHARTHA AWAY FROM HIS SEARCH



THEY WERE SINGING, LAUGHING, CHATTERING,
DANCING AND PLAYING

MARA HAD TRIED TO TEMPT SIDDHARTHA IN
THE CLEVEREST OF WAYS BY DISGUIISING
THE TEMPTATIONS OF LIFE IN THE
SIMPLEST FORMS



BUT SIDDHARTHA WAS LOOKING
BEYOND FORM, BEYOND THE PRESENT

WITH THE RAISE OF HIS HANDS



EVERYONE WERE DECAYED
TOWARDS THEIR FUTURE



AND NOW MARA WAS ENRAGED



IT SEEMED AS IF MARA HAD BEEN DEFEATED, BUT IN FACT HE HAD NOT YET GIVEN UP THE BATTLE



NOW HE ATTACKED AGAIN



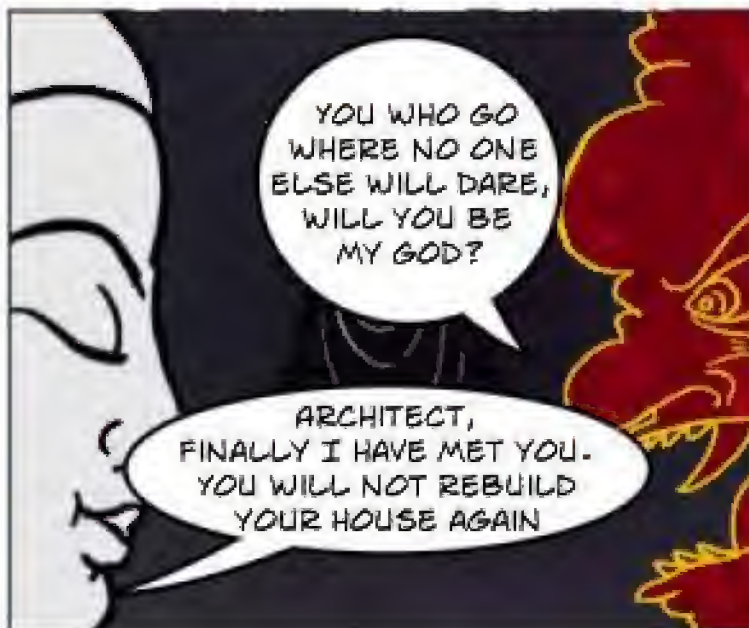
WITH HIS ILLUSIONARY ARMY



THE FIRE ARROWS WERE RAINED
TOWARD THE SIDDHARTHA



WHEN THE ARROW REACHES DOWN THE
TREE, THEY WERE TURNED INTO THE
SHOWER OF FLOWERS



WHEN HE FACES MARA HE FACES HIMSELF



HE REACHED DOWN AND TOUCHES
THE GROUND



AND THE ENTIRE EARTH SHUDDERED



MARA'S DEMONS FLED AND HE TOO VANISHED AS WIND



SIDDHARTHA WON THE
BATTLE AGAINST AN
ARMY OF DEMONS, JUST
THROUGH THE FORCE OF
HIS LOVE AND THE
GREAT COMPASSION HE
HAD FOUND

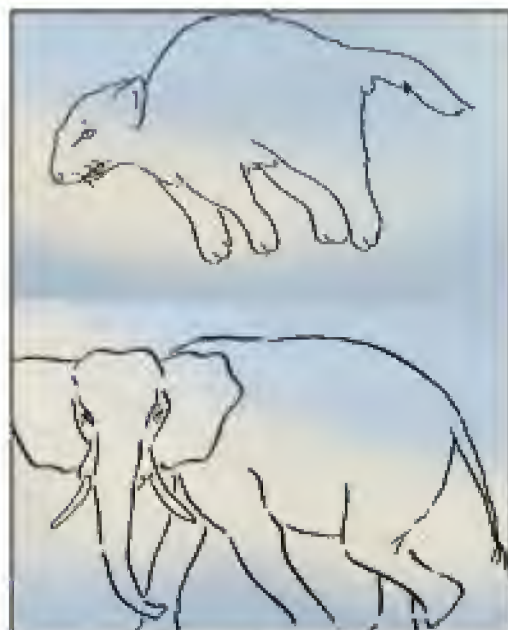


AND HE ACHIEVED THE
GREAT CALM THAT
PRECEDES DETACHMENT
FROM ILLUSIONS

HE HAD REACHED BEYOND HIMSELF HE WAS
BEYOND JOY OR PAIN, SEPARATE FROM JUDGMENT



HE ABLE TO REMEMBER THAT HE HAD BEEN A CAT,
A MOUSE, A TREE, A ELEPHANT...



HE REMEMBERED HIS FIRST BIRTH AND THE MILLIONS
AFTER THAT HE COULD SEE BEYOND THE UNIVERSE



SIDDHARTHA HAD SEEN THE ULTIMATE
REALITY OF ALL THINGS



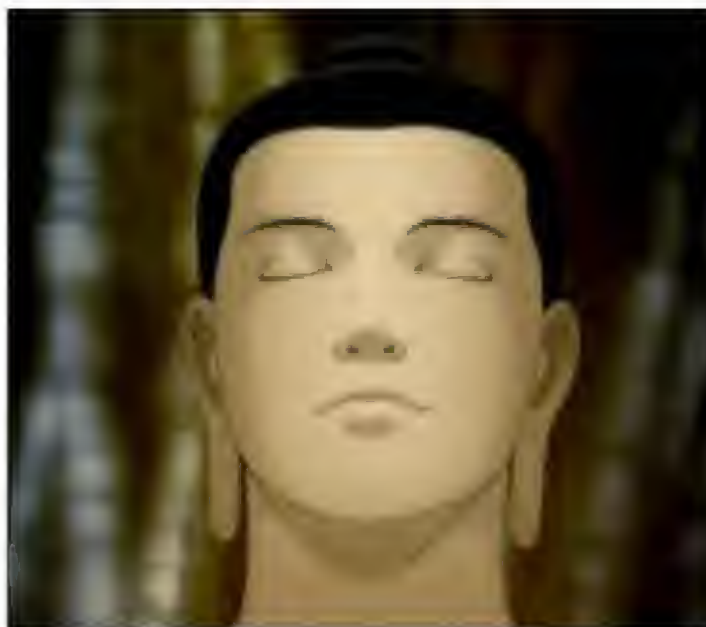
HE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT EVERY
MOVEMENT IN THE UNIVERSE IS AN EFFECT
PROVOKED BY A CAUSE



HE KNEW THERE WAS NO
SALVATION WITHOUT COMPASSION
FOR EVERY OTHER BEING



FROM THAT MOMENT ON,
SIDDHARTHA WAS CALLED
THE BUDDHA, THE AWAKENED ONE



FOR WEEKS, THE BUDDHA
REMAINED NEAR THE BODHI TREE,
PEACEFUL AND SERENE



HE WAS TEMPTED TO RETIRE
INTO A PROFOUND SOLITUDE



HE WANTS TO STAY THERE. HE'S VERY HAPPY.
HE DOESN'T WANT TO GO OUT

INSTEAD OF TRYING TO TEACH OTHERS WHAT IT HAD TAKEN HIM
SIX LONG YEARS TO DISCOVER FOR HIMSELF



"NO ONE IS GOING
TO UNDERSTAND THIS.
YOU KNOW, PEOPLE ARE
GOING TO THINK I'M
CRAZY"

BUDDHA SAW THE NATURE OF THE
PEOPLE: ENVY AND JEALOUSY AND THE
STRONG NEGATIVE MENTAL STATES



ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, THEY
ARE LIKE THE FISHES WRIGGLING IN
THE VERY SHALLOW WATER



SO BUDDHA, HE HIMSELF AFRAID TO
TEACH THE PEOPLE

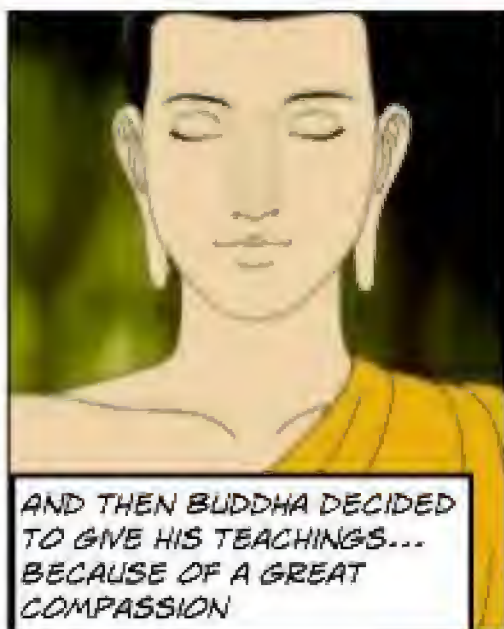
AND IT IS SAID THAT THE MYTH GOD BRAHMA COMES TO THE BUDDHA



HE SAT IN FRONT OF HIM ON HIS KNEES



"PLEASE, WE NEED YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY TALKING
ABOUT WHAT YOU JUST
UNDERSTOOD? CAUSE THE WORLD
NEEDS - THE GODS NEED IT, AND THE
MEN NEED IT" YOU KNOW, "THE
PEOPLE NEED IT"



AND THEN BUDDHA DECIDED
TO GIVE HIS TEACHINGS...
BECAUSE OF A GREAT
COMPASSION

IT'S NOT AN ORDINARY COMPASSION



THE MYTH GOD BRAHMA AND
DEVAS WERE VANISHED INTO
THE SKY



35 YEARS OLD, THE BUDDHA WOULD DEVOTE THE REST OF
HIS LIFE TO BRINGING HIS TEACHINGS - THE DHARMA, THE
FUNDAMENTAL LAWS OF ALL THINGS INTO THE WORLD



BUT AS HE HAD FEARED,
IT WOULD NOT BE EASY

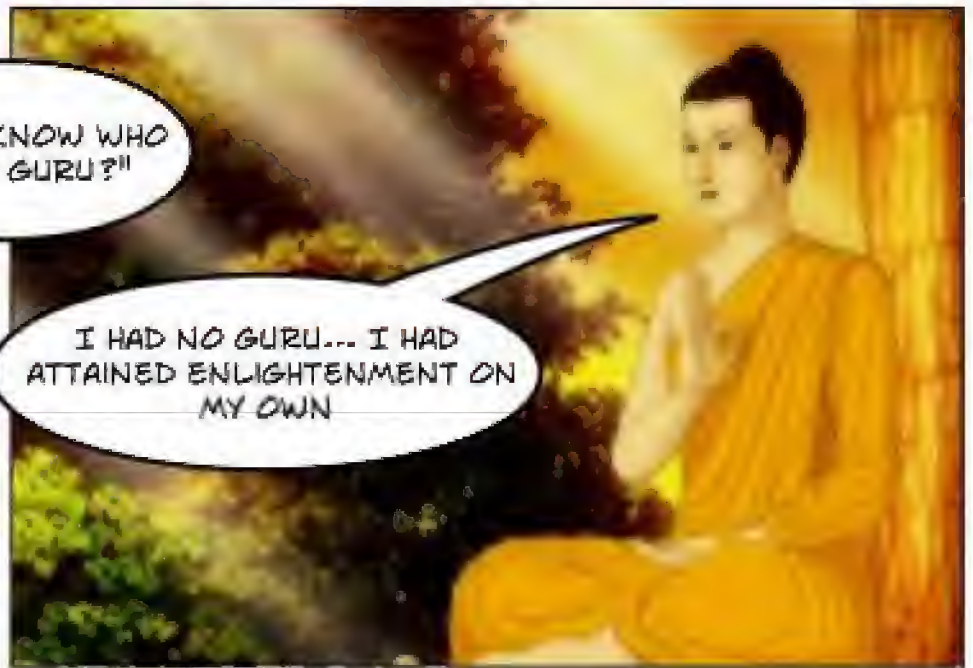


AS HE SET OFF TO SHARE WHAT HE HAD
LEARNED, HE MET A WANDERING ASCETIC

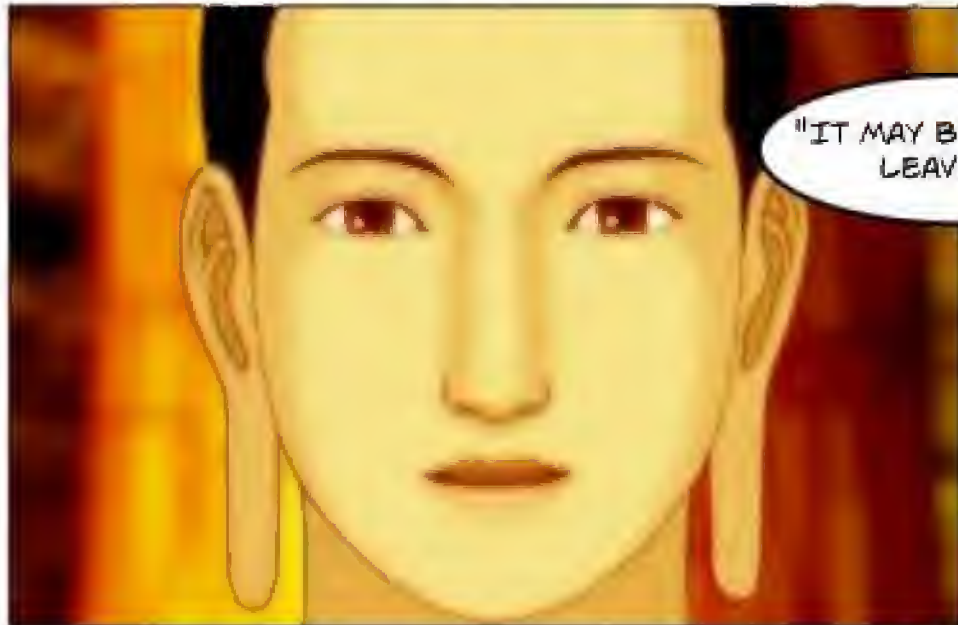




"MAY I KNOW WHO IS YOUR GURU?"



I HAD NO GURU... I HAD
ATTAINED ENLIGHTENMENT ON
MY OWN



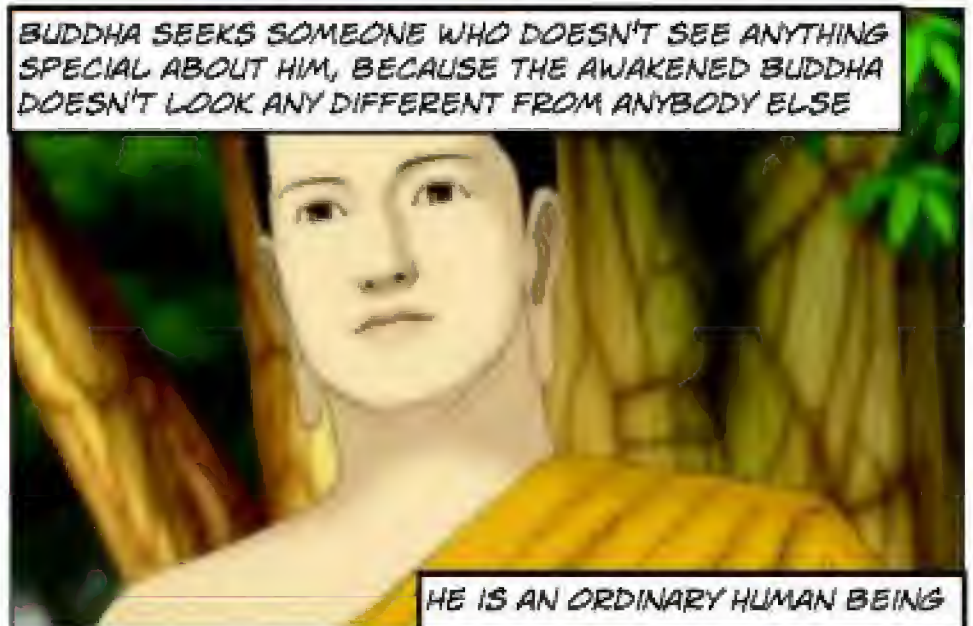
"IT MAY BE SO I AM
LEAVING"



THE ASCETIC WALKED AWAY



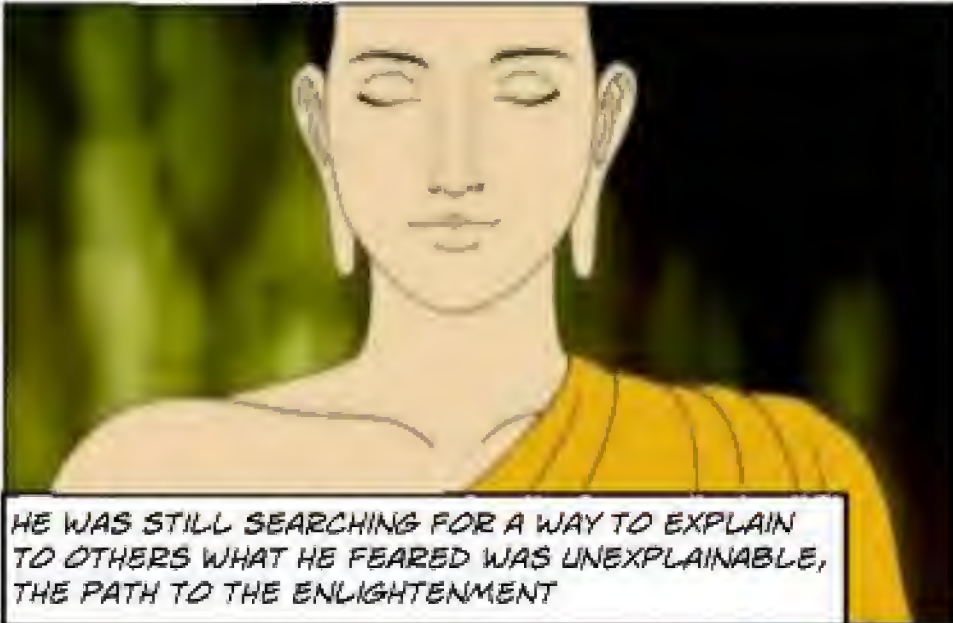
ON HIS FIRST ATTEMPT TO
TEACH, THE BUDDHA HAD
FAILED



BUDDHA SEEKS SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T SEE ANYTHING
SPECIAL ABOUT HIM, BECAUSE THE AWAKENED BUDDHA
DOESN'T LOOK ANY DIFFERENT FROM ANYBODY ELSE

HE IS AN ORDINARY HUMAN BEING

FROM BODH GAYA, THE BUDDHA WALKED WEST NEARLY 200 MILES
AND CROSSED THE GANGES RIVER



HE WAS STILL SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO EXPLAIN
TO OTHERS WHAT HE FEARED WAS UNEXPLAINABLE,
THE PATH TO THE ENLIGHTENMENT

HE HIMSELF HAD
EXPERIENCED



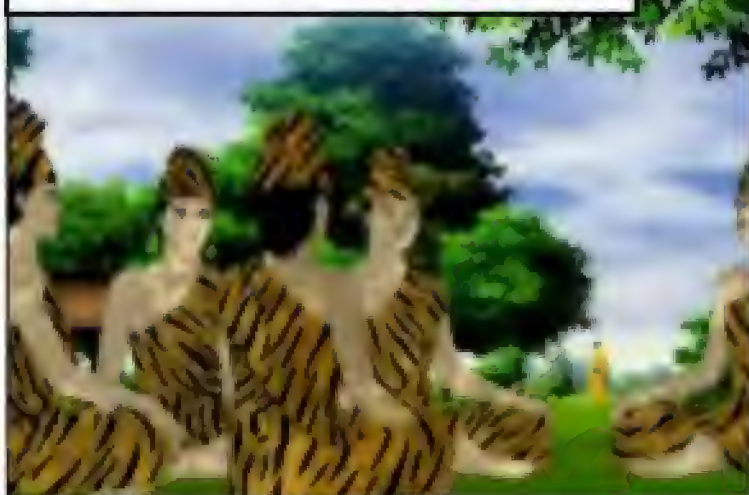
IN A DEER PARK IN SARNATH, NOT FAR FROM
THE GANGES, HE WOULD TRY AGAIN



HIS FIVE FORMER COMPANIONS WERE STILL PRACTICING THE AUSTERITIES HE HIMSELF HAD ABANDONED



FROM FAR OFF, THEY SAW THE BUDDHA COMING AND, ON SEEING HIM, THEY MADE A PACT WITH ONE ANOTHER



"FRIENDS, HERE COMES SIDDHARTHA, LIVING LUXURIOUSLY, STRAYING FROM HIS ASCETIC PRACTICE. HE DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE BOWED DOWN TO"

THEY WERE JUST DISAPPOINTED AND DISGUSTED WITH HIM AND A BIT OF DISTRUSTFUL AT THE BEGINNING



HIS FIRST TEACHING WOULD LATER BE CALLED 'SETTING IN MOTION THE WHEEL OF THE DHARMA' BECAUSE IT BROUGHT THE BUDDHA'S MESSAGE INTO THE WORLD FOR THE FIRST TIME



AND THEY THEN BECAME THE FIRST PEOPLE TO HEAR THE CONTENT OF WHAT HE REALIZED UNDER THE BODHI TREE



HE DID NOT PROPOUND
A DOGMA



INSTEAD, HE SPOKE FROM HIS OWN
EXPERIENCE, OUT OF HIS OWN HEART



I'VE DISCOVERED A NEW WAY, AND
IT'S NOT THE PATH OF ASCETICISM, AND IT'S
NOT THE PATH OF SENSORY INDULGENCE.
IT'S THE MIDDLE WAY

EVERYTHING NEEDS
TO BE BALANCED. SO, YOU
KNOW, THE MIDDLE WAY WAS ALWAYS
BALANCING BETWEEN, EXCESSES ON
THIS SIDE, EXCESSES ON THE
OTHER SIDE



THE PATH TO ENLIGHTENMENT LAY ALONG
THE MIDDLE WAY, THE BUDDHA TAUGHT, AND
THE ASCETICS LISTENED



THE BUDDHA'S SIX YEAR ANALYSIS OF SUFFERING
CAME IN THE FORM OF WHAT HAVE COME TO BE
CALLED "THE FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS"



1. DUKKHA - DISSATISFACTION IS
PHYSICAL AND MENTAL SUFFERING
WHICH IS TO BE UNDERSTOOD

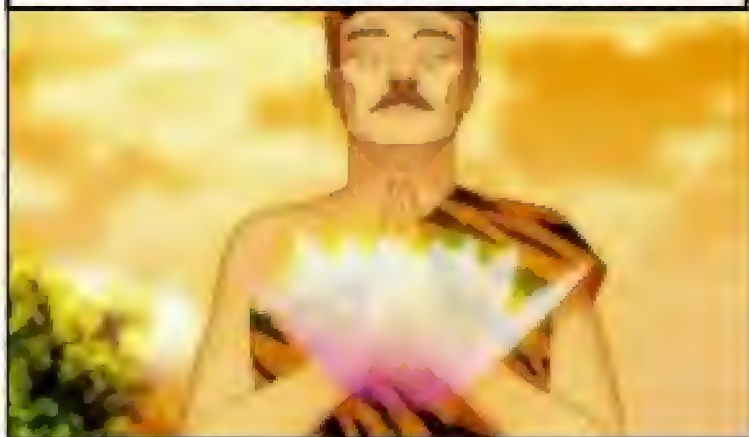
2. ACCUMULATION IS
CRAVING WHICH IS THE CAUSE OF
SUFFERING, WHICH IS TO BE
AVOIDED

3. EXTINCTION IS CESSATION OF
SUFFERING, WHICH IS TO BE
CULTIVATED

4. THE PATH IS THE WAY
LEADING TO CESSATION OF
SUFFERING, WHICH IS TO BE
CULTIVATED



AFTER THE THREE TIMES TURNING THE DHARMA-WHEEL OF THE FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS, KONDANNA IS THE FIRST AMONG FIVE ASCETICS TO ATTAIN THE VISION OF TRUTH WHICH IS THE STATE OF STREAM-ENTERER



SOON ONE BY ONE ALL THE FIVE ASCETICS WERE ATTAINED THE VISION OF TRUTH



BUDDHA BLESSED THEM ALL



THE BUDDHA DIDN'T SPEAK FOR LONG, BUT WHEN HE WAS FINISHED, THE FIVE SKEPTICAL ASCETICS HAD BEEN WON OVER

THEY BECAME HIS FIRST DISCIPLES



WORD QUICKLY SPREAD OF THE SAGE
TEACHING IN THE DEER PARK AT
SARNATH



HUNDREDS CAME TO HEAR HIM
AND BECAME DISCIPLES TOO



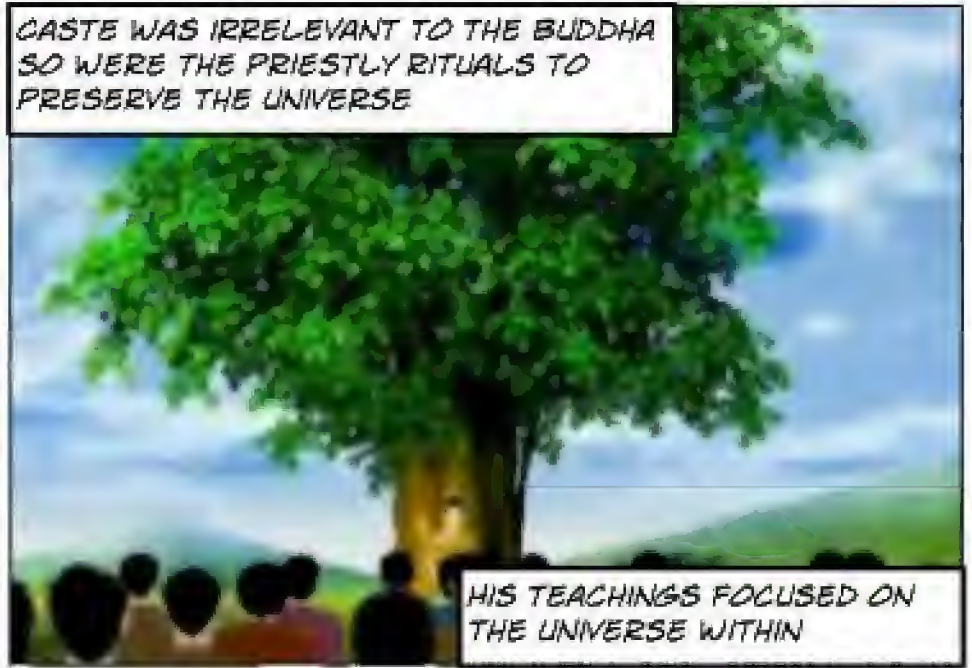
MANY WERE WEALTHY MERCHANTS OR THEIR SONS, LIVING JUST FIVE
MILES AWAY IN A THRIVING TRADING CENTER ON THE GANGES, THE
HOLY CITY OF BENARES



TODAY BENARES IS THE MOST SACRED CITY
IN ALL OF INDIA



CASTE WAS IRRELEVANT TO THE BUDDHA
SO WERE THE PRIESTLY RITUALS TO
PRESERVE THE UNIVERSE



HIS TEACHINGS FOCUSED ON
THE UNIVERSE WITHIN




YOU COULD
BE FROM ANY CASTE,
BUT WHAT MAKES YOU NOBLE
IS IF YOU UNDERSTAND REALITY,
YOU KNOW, IF YOU'RE A GOOD
PERSON. IF YOU'RE A WISE
PERSON, THEN YOU'RE
NOBLE




IT TOOK THE BUDDHA MANY, MANY YEARS TO FIND HIS
WAY. BUT HE DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE SO HARD FOR
PEOPLE, AND SO HE ESTABLISHED A COMMUNITY WHO
COULD LIVE TOGETHER AND HELP ONE ANOTHER



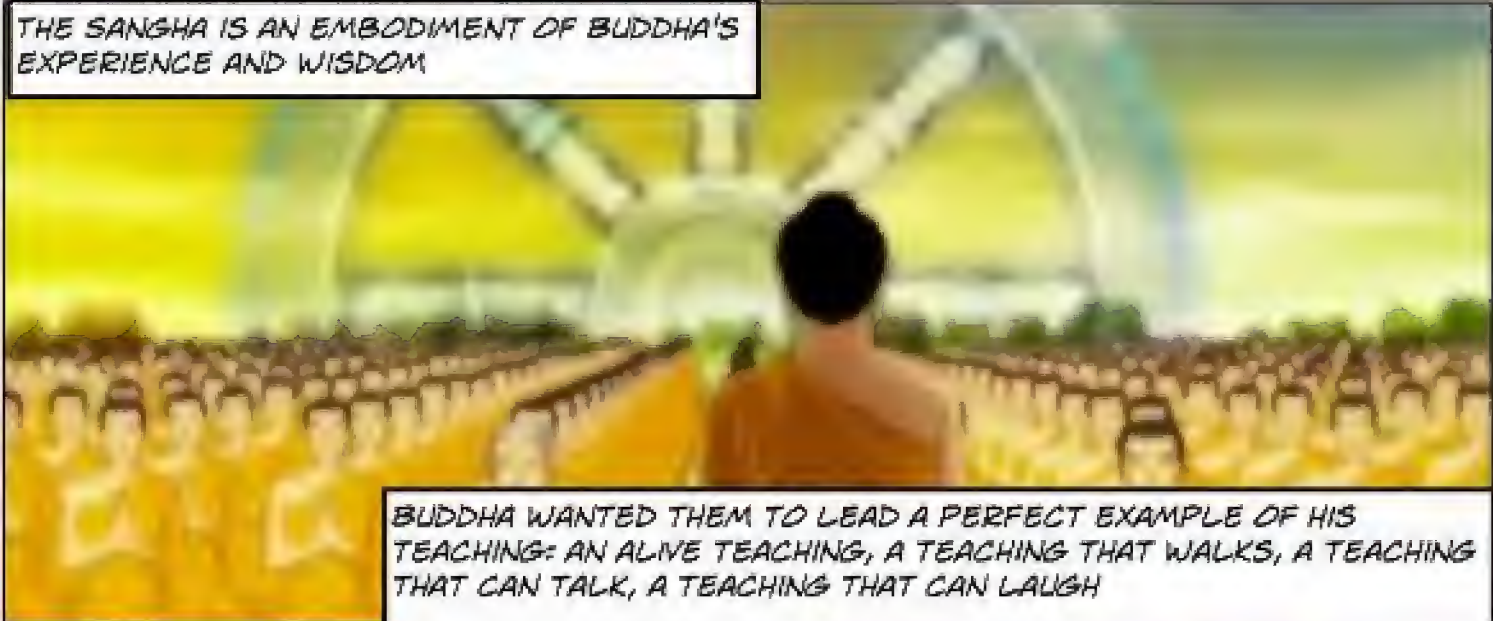


WITH THE CEREMONY THE PEOPLE EVOKING THE BEGINNING OF THE BUDDHA'S OWN SPIRITUAL JOURNEY, FLEDGLING MONKS OF ALL AGES SAY GOOD-BYE TO THEIR FAMILIES AND HOMES AND JOIN THE SANGHA




I GO TO THE REFUGE OF THE BUDDHA, I GO TO THE REFUGE OF THE DHARMA, AND I GO TO THE REFUGE OF THE SANGHA

THE SANGHA IS AN EMBODIMENT OF BUDDHA'S EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM



BUDDHA WANTED THEM TO LEAD A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF HIS TEACHING: AN ALIVE TEACHING, A TEACHING THAT WALKS, A TEACHING THAT CAN TALK, A TEACHING THAT CAN LAUGH

SO SANGHA IS JUST THE LIVING EXAMPLE OF BUDDHA'S TEACHING



THE FIRST SANGHA WAS A RADICAL INSTITUTION, OPEN TO PEOPLE OF EVERY CASTE AND FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN



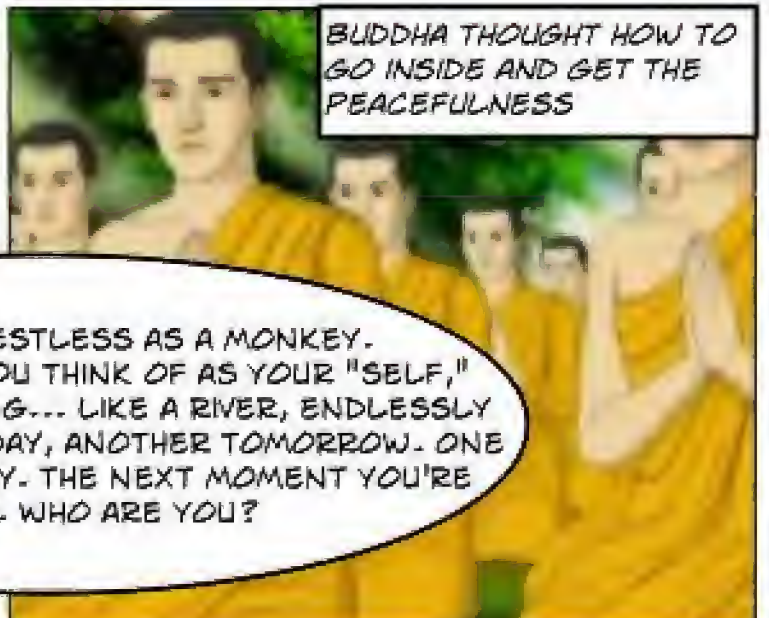
LIFE WAS SO HARD FOR MOST WOMEN AT THAT TIME. ENTERING THE SANGHA WAS A LIBERATION FOR THEM, THEY ENJOYED AND ECSTATIC IN EACH AND EVERY MOMENT



MANY TIMES, OUR MIND IS NOT PEACEFUL ENOUGH. SO WE REALIZE THAT PERHAPS WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT MIND ITSELF AND HOW TO BALANCE THE EMOTIONS, HOW TO BALANCE OUR MIND, AND TRY TO CULTIVATE MORE HAPPINESS. THE DIFFICULTIES COME FROM WITHIN



THE MIND IS AS RESTLESS AS A MONKEY. WHO YOU ARE, WHAT YOU THINK OF AS YOUR "SELF," IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING... LIKE A RIVER, ENDLESSLY FLOWING, ONE THING TODAY, ANOTHER TOMORROW. ONE MOMENT YOU'RE ANGRY. THE NEXT MOMENT YOU'RE LAUGHING. WHO ARE YOU?



BUDDHA THOUGHT HOW TO GO INSIDE AND GET THE PEACEFULNESS

COMPASSION STIRRED THE BUDDHA TO SEND HIS MONKS OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY



SWORN TO CHASTITY AND POVERTY, THEY WANDERED THE ROADS, BRINGING THE BUDDHA'S TEACHINGS INTO THE WORLD



GO FORTH, MONKS, FOR THE HAPPINESS OF THE MANY, OUT OF COMPASSION FOR THE WORLD. THERE ARE BEINGS WHOSE EYES HAVE LITTLE DUST ON THEM, WHO WILL PERISH IF THEY DO NOT HEAR THE TEACHING. BUT IF THEY HEAR THE TEACHING, THEY WILL GAIN LIBERATION



THE MONKS EXIST BY BEGGING

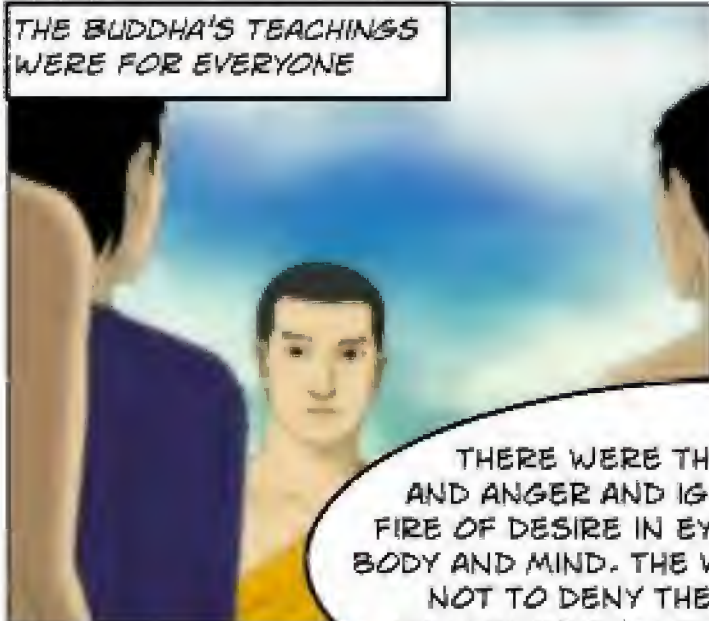


MANY OF THEM THINK BEGGING IS KIND OF A BAD THING, BUT BEGGING IN THIS TRADITION IS A GOOD THING. IT'S A SIGN OF SPIRITUAL PURITY



AND THEN IN EXCHANGE FOR LUNCH, THEY GIVE A LECTURE UNTIL THE LISTENER GOT SATISFIED

THE BUDDHA'S TEACHINGS
WERE FOR EVERYONE



THERE WERE THREE POISONS, GREED
AND ANGER AND IGNORANCE THAT MAKE THE
FIRE OF DESIRE IN EYES, NOSES, EARS, MOUTH,
BODY AND MIND. THE WAY TO GET RID OF THOSE IS
NOT TO DENY THE THREE POISONS BUT TO
RECOGNIZE THAT IF YOU TURN THEM AROUND,
YOU COME TO THEIR OPPOSITES



INSTEAD OF GREED, YOU HAVE
GENEROSITY, INSTEAD OF ANGER, YOU
HAVE COMPASSION, AND INSTEAD OF
IGNORANCE, YOU HAVE WISDOM



THE BUDDHA WAS, ABOVE ALL,
A PRAGMATIST



HE DID NOT EXPECT HIS FOLLOWERS TO
AGREE WITH EVERYTHING HE SAID, HE
ENCOURAGED THEM TO DEBATE AND
ARGUE, TO CHALLENGE HIM



MY FOLLOWERS SHOULD NOT ACCEPT MY TEACHING OUT OF DEVOTION BUT RATHER BY THEIR OWN EXPERIMENT

EVEN BUDDHA HIMSELF, IN ORDER TO GET FINAL ENLIGHTENMENT, NEED HARD WORK. SO INVESTIGATE BASED ON REASON, THROUGH LOGICAL INVESTIGATION



IF SOMETHING CONTRADICT, IN BUDDHA'S OWN WORDS, THEN WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT THAT

AS THE BUDDHA GATHERED MORE AND MORE FOLLOWERS, STORIES SPREAD OF HIS MIRACLES, WHICH MIXED THE MARVELOUS WITH THE MUNDANE



VIOLENCE ALWAYS LEADS TO MORE VIOLENCE. TO THE SLAYER COMES A SLAYER. TO THE CONQUEROR COMES A CONQUEROR. HE WHO PLUNDERS IS PLUNDERED IN TURN




CHANGE MUST COME FROM WITHIN




BUDDHISM DOESN'T ARGUE WITH REALITY

FOR DECADES, THE BUDDHA
SHARED HIS TEACHINGS ALL
ACROSS NORTHEASTERN INDIA




LET ALL BEINGS BE HAPPY. WEAK
OR STRONG, GREAT OR SMALL, LET US
CHERISH ALL CREATURES, AS A MOTHER
HER ONLY CHILD




BAREFOOT IN HIS
ROBES, HE WAS STILL
WALKING THE ROADS
WHEN HE WAS 80, BUT
OLD AGE WAS UPON HIM

HIS BACK HURT. HIS STOMACH
WAS OFTEN IN PAIN




I AM OLD,
WORN OUT, LIKE A
DILAPIDATED CART HELD
TOGETHER WITH THIN
STRAPS



THE WORLD IS SO
SWEET, I WANTING TO LIVE
FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER
CENTURY



BUT HE WAS FRAIL AND EXHAUSTED



HE BECAME ILL NEAR KUSHINAGAR,
A REMOTE VILLAGE NEAR THE
BORDER OF NEPAL

WHEN HE WAS OFFERED A MEAL WHICH WOULD PROVE DEADLY, THAT THE FOOD WAS SPOILED. HE ATE WHAT WAS OFFERED TO HIM, AND IT'S SAID THAT HE KNEW

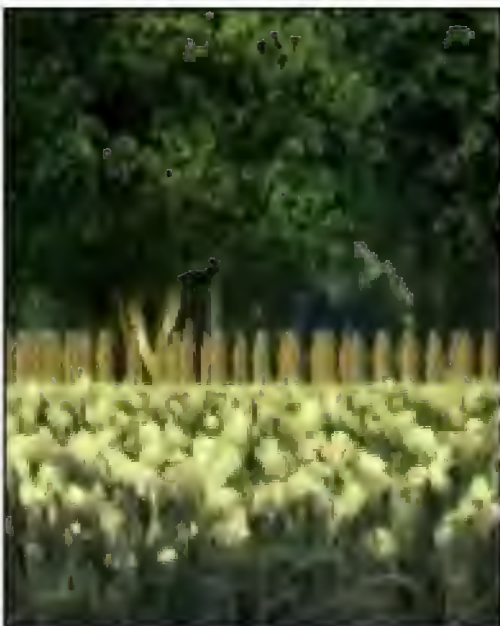


IT WAS BAD, BUT HE TOOK IT ANYWAY CAUSE IT WAS OFFERED AND DIDN'T WANT THE PERSON WHO OFFERED IT TO FEEL BAD, CAUSE IT WAS HIS TIME

MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES WERE REACHED TO THE KUSHINAGAR



HE GREW WEAK AND ASKED TO BE LAID ON HIS SIDE IN A QUIET GROVE OF SAL TREES



AS HE NEARED THE END, HIS DISCIPLES BEGAN TO WEEP, STRICKEN WITH GRIEF





I REASSURE YOU
THAT ALL THINGS CHANGE,
WHATEVER IS BORN IS SUBJECT TO
DECAY. IT IS A NATURAL
PROCESS

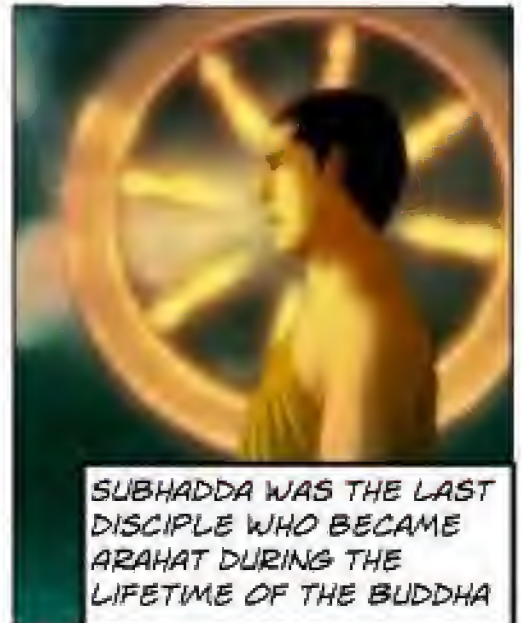


USE THIS TIME, USE THE ENERGY
HERE, EVEN THIS, FOR YOUR OWN
AWAKENING

SO HE USED EVEN HIS OWN DEATH AND
THEIR SADNESS AS A TIME TO REMIND
THEM OF WHAT THEIR REAL TASK WAS



WHAT HE'S ACTUALLY DOING IS INVITING
THOSE WHO ARE CLOSE TO HIM INTO
THE EXPERIENCE



SUBHADDA WAS THE LAST
DISCIPLE WHO BECAME
ARAHAT DURING THE
LIFETIME OF THE BUDDHA

THE BUDDHA HAD
ALWAYS BEEN SAYING
GOOD-BYE. NOW HE
PREPARED TO LEAVE
THE EARTH FOREVER



IN THE EDGE OF DEATH HE
REMEMBERED ALL OF HIS STAGES
OF HIS FROM HIS BIRTH UP TO THIS







IT MAY BE THAT AFTER I AM GONE, THAT SOME OF YOU WILL THINK; 'NOW WE HAVE NO TEACHER', BUT THAT IS NOT HOW YOU SHOULD SEE IT. LET THE DHARMA AND THE DISCIPLINE THAT I HAVE TAUGHT YOU BE YOUR TEACHER. ALL INDIVIDUAL THINGS PASS AWAY. STRIVE ON, UNTIRINGLY

THOSE WERE THE BUDDHA'S LAST WORDS

THE BUDDHA DIED PEACEFULLY. HE WOULD NEVER BE REBORN, NEVER DIE AGAIN



HIS HEAD WAS POINTED TO THE NORTH, HIS FACE TO THE WEST



THE EARTH SHOOK, AND THE TREES
SUDDENLY BURST INTO BLOOM...
THEIR PETALS FALLING GENTLY ON
HIS STILL BODY, FALLING OUT OF
REVERENCE

DIVINE CORAL FLOWERS
AND DIVINE SANDALWOOD
POWDERS FELL FROM
ABOVE ON THE BUDDHA'S
BODY OUT OF REVERENCE

HIS DISCIPLES WERE QUITE UPSET THAT WHAT THEY ARE GOING
TO DO WITHOUT THEIR TEACHER, BUT SOON THEY REMEMBER
THE SIMPLE WORDS OF BUDDHA: "I AM NOT YOUR LIGHT. I AM
NOT YOUR AUTHORITY. YOU'VE BEEN WITH ME A LONG TIME.
NOW, BE YOUR OWN LIGHT"

THE BUDDHA SAW DEATH AND LIFE AS INSEPARABLE.
THESE ARE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME THING,
DEATH IS ALWAYS WITH US

HEART SUTRA, THE BEAUTIFUL PRAYER
KEEP IT WITH YOU IN YOUR HEARTS, ALWAYS
FORM IS EMPTY. EMPTINESS IS FORM
NO EYE, EAR, NOSE, TONGUE, BODY, MIND
NO COLOR, SOUND, SMELL, TASTE, TOUCH, EXISTING THING
NO YOU! NO ME!
NO DEATH AND NO FEAR!
NO OLD AGE IN DEATH!
NO END TO OLD AGE IN DEATH! NO SUFFERING!
NO "CAUSE OF"... OR "END TO"... SUFFERING
NO PATH. NO WISDOM. AND NO GAIN
NO GAIN. THUS BODHISATTVAS LIVED IN PERFECT
UNDERSTANDING WITH NO HINDRANCE OF MIND
NO HINDRANCE, THEREFORE, NO FEAR
FAR BEYOND DELUDED THOUGHTS
- THIS IS NIRVANA



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